

successfully restored funding at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the IBD Epidemiology Program. These are no small feats in such challenging times.

Mr. Sinderbrand has set the bar high, and I'm confident he has put the Foundation on the right path for continued success in the future. I am grateful for his commitment to the National Board of Trustees for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America at a time when the field of inflammatory bowel disease research is achieving such great success.

#### HONORING MICHAEL GREENE

### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael Greene's 21 years of service on Missouri's Eighth Congressional District Service Academy Review Board. Membership on this board is an important public service and one that I entrust only to those who have truly shown quality of character and judgment. An exceptional example is Michael Greene.

I want to thank Michael for his service to the Eighth Congressional District and to the five branches of military in our great nation. His leadership on the Service Academy Review Board has been influential in the lives of countless young men and women from southern Missouri who have worked hard to better themselves in the service of our country.

As an advocate for our nation's five service academies, I have relied on his sound judgment and good guidance. Michael has always taken seriously the important task of reviewing the applications of students who seek an appointment to the service academies, encouraging them in their decision-making process and furthering a long, proud tradition of military service. Because our congressional district is so well represented at the nation's service academies, we also have a reputation for producing motivated, honorable young people who are earnest in their desire to serve others, steadfast in their obligation to defend freedom, and pure in their patriotic love for America. Michael shares these virtues with the young Missourians he has helped to nominate and place in positions of leadership in all branches of the armed services.

From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate everything he has done for the Service Academy Review Board program to further its aims and to achieve its goals. I deeply appreciate his role in this important congressional responsibility. Like our Americans in uniform, Michael volunteered for this duty, and he has long served ably, honorably and well.

#### IN HONOR OF JEAN LEIDIG DRAPER

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, public service and philanthropy of Jean Leidig Draper, Carmel's "Grand Dame." Mrs. Draper passed away January

20th. She will be remembered for her generous support of local, civic, and cultural organizations on the Central Coast of California and for the many lives she touched through her community work in the city of Carmel.

After attending Dominican College in San Rafael and the California Institute of Arts in San Francisco, Jean married Raymond Draper. Together they had three children: Wendy, Michael and Susan.

Jean was widely known for her love of Carmel and the causes she supported. Included among the many recipients of Jean's generosity were the Carmel Library, the Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula, the Forest Theatre Foundation, the Carmel Foundation, the Pacific Repertory Theater, the American Red Cross, Westland House, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Jean served as the first elected Chaplain of the Stillwater Cove Yacht Club. She was a dedicated supporter of Chartwell School and a longtime parishoner of the Carmelite Monastery.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pain that I announce the passing of Jean. I would like to personally acknowledge her life and commitment to the city of Carmel. I would also like to extend my deepest condolences to her family, friends and all those who benefitted from her service, generosity, and kindness.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF WHITNEY HOUSTON

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathy to the family, friends and fans of Ms. Whitney Elizabeth Houston whose sudden death on February 11, 2012 has left us all saddened. Her passing leaves a void in the lives of those of us who knew and loved her. It also marks the silencing of a voice that was one of the greatest in the history of the recording industry and one that will be missed throughout the world.

Ms. Houston, known lovingly to her legions of fans as Whitney and to her family and friends as "Nippy" was born and raised within the borders of the 10th Congressional District in the cities of Newark and East Orange. Whitney made her singing debut at the family's longtime church home, New Hope Baptist Church in Newark. The fact that Whitney would love to sing came as no surprise to anyone who knew her family's history. The Drinkard Sisters, on her mother side were legendary in the Greater Newark area and beyond. Her mother, Cissy Houston and cousin, Dionne Warwick are both well known talents. What we would discover over the course of Whitney's career would be her incredible international appeal driven by her angelic voice and God given talent. Not only was Whitney a gifted singer but she was an actress, a model, film producer, record producer and songwriter.

Whitney Houston was a Super Star and in 2009, the Guinness World Records cited her as the most awarded female act of all time. These awards include two Emmy Awards, six Grammy Awards, 30 Billboard Music Awards and 22 American Music Awards. She was a trend setter and influenced many of the artists

performing today. Her incomparable style will live on forever with every mention of incredible voices.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues here in the House of Representatives agree that our nation has lost one of its greatest talents in Whitney Houston. Fortunately for her family especially Bobbi Kristina, her legacy will live on. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

#### HONORING FIREFIGHTER JAMES DYKSTRA

### HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Firefighter James Dykstra of the Streamwood Fire Department on the occasion of his retirement. He recently concluded his loyal service of over 30 years to the community.

Jim earned his Associate Degree in Applied Science from Thornton Community College in December of 1980. Firefighter Dykstra began his firefighter career in Streamwood in 1981 as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter. His training included becoming an EMP/Paramedic and Firefighter before being hired as a career firefighter.

With dedication and persistence, he worked alongside his colleagues at the Streamwood Fire Department to promote the safety and well-being of his community. As a testimony to his service and commitment to Streamwood, he earned several Illinois certifications, including Firefighter III, Fire Apparatus Engineer, HazMat First Responder Operations status, Fire Prevention Officer, Fire Investigator, Provisional Fire Office Instructor I, and Certified Officer I. Jim was a founding member of the Department's Fire Investigation Team. On February 28, 1999, he received the Disaster Service Medal for participating in a structure fire. His leadership has been demonstrated through an unwavering display of courage and achievement.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF REX EUGENE GEITNER

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rex Eugene Geitner who has been selected as the 2011 Farmer of the Year by the San Mateo County Farm Bureau. Rex has cultivated land from the Midwest to California where he has grown some of the best wines in the world.

Rex was born on August 6, 1950, inavenport, Iowa, while his mother was visiting her sister. He then grew up in the family's hometown of Peoria and several other rural communities in Illinois. The family owned and operated a small farm near Elmwood which is where Rex developed his love for the land.